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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a 1-[4-(biphenyl-4-carbonyl)]phenylaminoanthraquinone colorant composition, said method comprising:

reacting a 4-halobenzoic acid with about 1 mole to about 4 moles of a halogenating agent per mole of said 4-halobenzoic acid to form a 4-halobenzoyl halide composition;

reacting in the presence of a first catalyst composition, said 4-halobenzoyl halide composition with biphenyl, in a solvent to form a 1-[4-(biphenyl-4-carbonyl)]halobenzene composition; and

reacting in the presence of a second catalyst composition and an acid scavenger, said ~~1-[4-(biphenyl-4-carbonyl)]halobenzene~~ ~~1-[4-(4-phenylbenzoyl)]halobenzene~~ composition with a 1-aminoanthraquinone, in a reaction medium comprising a dipolar aprotic solvent, to form said 1-[4-(biphenyl-4-carbonyl)]phenylaminoanthraquinone colorant composition.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said reacting 4-halobenzoic acid with a halogenating agent to form a 4-halobenzoyl halide composition further is conducted in a solvent comprising aromatic compounds having from about 6 to about 9 carbon atoms, and aliphatic and alicyclic compounds having from about 1 to about 6 carbon atoms.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said 4-halobenzoic acid is at least one selected from the group consisting of 4-chlorobenzoic acid, 4-bromobenzoic acid, 4-iodobenzoic acid, and mixtures thereof.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said halogenating agent comprises a halogen-containing phosphorus compound, a halogen-containing sulfur compound, and a carbonyl halide.

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5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said halogenating agent is selected from the group consisting of PCl_3 , PCl_5 , PBr_3 , POCl_3 , POBr_3 , carbonyl chloride, carbonyl bromide, thionyl chloride, thionyl bromide, sulfonyl chloride, and mixtures thereof.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said reacting 4-halobenzoic acid with a halogenating agent further is conducted in the presence of from about 0.1 parts to about 5 parts per 100 parts by weight of said 4-halobenzoic acid, of a catalyst comprising an amide compound or a urea compound.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said solvent comprises nitroaromatic compounds, nitroaliphatic compounds, and halogen-containing $\text{C}_1 - \text{C}_4$ aliphatic compounds,

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein reacting said 4-halobenzoyl halide composition with biphenyl is carried out at from about an ambient temperature to about 200°C .

9. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein reacting said 4-halobenzoyl halide composition with biphenyl is carried out at from about 50°C to about 200°C .

10. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein reacting said 4-halobenzoyl halide composition with biphenyl is carried out for a duration from about 1 hours to about 10 hours.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein reacting said 4-halobenzoyl halide composition with biphenyl is carried out for a duration from about 2 hours to about 8 hours.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said first catalyst composition comprises an inorganic halide having the formula M^1X_m , wherein " M^1 " is at least one element selected from groups 3 to 15 of the Periodic Table; and " m " is an integer having a value from about 2 to about 5.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said first catalyst composition comprises at least one of zinc(II) chloride, aluminum(III) chloride, boron(III) fluoride etherate, and iron(III) chloride.

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14. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said first catalyst composition comprises from about 90 moles to about 100 moles per 100 moles of said 4-halobenzoyl chloride.
15. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said dipolar aprotic solvent is selected from the group consisting of N,N-dimethylformamide, N-methyl-3-pyrrolidinone, N,N-dimethylacetamide, dimethylsulfoxide, 1,3-dimethyl-2-imidazolidinone, and sulfolane, and mixtures comprising any of the foregoing solvents.
16. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein reacting said 1-[4-(biphenyl-4-carbonyl)]halobenzene ~~1-[4-(4-phenylbenzoyl)]halobenzene~~ composition with said 1-aminoanthraquinone is carried out at a temperature of from about 50°C to about 200°C.
17. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein reacting said 1-[4-(biphenyl-4-carbonyl)]halobenzene ~~1-[4-(4-phenylbenzoyl)]halobenzene~~ composition with said 1-aminoanthraquinone is carried out at a temperature of from about 100°C to about 170°C.
18. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein reacting said 1-[4-(biphenyl-4-carbonyl)]halobenzene ~~1-[4-(4-phenylbenzoyl)]halobenzene~~ composition with said 1-aminoanthraquinone is carried out for a period from about 12 hours to about 30 hours.
19. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein reacting said 1-[4-(biphenyl-4-carbonyl)]halobenzene ~~1-[4-(4-phenylbenzoyl)]halobenzene~~ composition with said 1-aminoanthraquinone is carried out for a period from about 18 hours to about 24 hours.
20. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said second catalyst composition comprises of copper, CuX, and CuX₂, wherein "X" is selected from chloride, bromide, iodide, and a mixture thereof.
21. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said second catalyst composition comprises copper and CuI.

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22. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said second catalyst composition comprises about 0.05 parts to about 25 parts per 100 parts by weight of 1-aminoanthraquinone.

23. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said acid scavenger comprises alkali metal carbonates, alkaline earth metal carbonates, alkali metal bicarbonates; alkaline earth metal bicarbonates, and alkali metal carboxylates and alkaline earth metal carboxylates having the general formula $M(\text{COOR}^1)_n$, wherein "M" is an alkali metal or an alkaline earth metal, R^1 is a monovalent alkyl group having from about 1 to about 6 carbons, and "n" is selected from 1 and 2.

24. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a 1-[4-(biphenyl-4-carbonyl)]phenylaminoanthraquinone colorant composition, said method comprising:

reacting one mole of a 4-bromobenzoic acid with about 1.1 moles to about 4 moles of thionyl chloride per mole of 4-bromobenzoic acid to form a 4-bromobenzoyl chloride composition;

reacting in the presence of aluminum chloride, said 4-bromobenzoyl chloride composition with biphenyl in a solvent comprising nitrobenzene, to form a 1-[4-(biphenyl-4-carbonyl)]phenylaminoanthraquinone composition; and

reacting in the presence of an acid scavenger comprising potassium carbonate and sodium acetate, and a second catalyst composition comprising about 1 part of copper per part by weight of copper(I) iodide, said ~~1-[4-(biphenyl-4-carbonyl)]bromobenzene~~ ~~1-[4-(4-phenylbenzoyl)]bromobenzene~~ composition with a 1-aminoanthraquinone in a solvent comprising N,N-dimethylformamide, to form said 1-[4-(biphenyl-4-carbonyl)]phenylaminoanthraquinone colorant composition.

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